



VOL. IX, No. 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1976

PRICE \$2.00

THE לְפָנַי SHEKEL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Mystery Veils Trial Pieces

A Receipt for Palestine

Bilingual British Occupation Notes

Mintage Figures: 5735/1975

AINA Luncheon at ANA

Israel's Tokens at Sea

Barbaric Coins of Years 2 and 3

Club News from Newsletters



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



OUR ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 499, FRESH MEADOWS STATION, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11365

MORRIS BRAM, President

EDWARD SCHUMAN, Executive Vice President

GEORGE GILBERT, Secretary EDWARD JANIS, Treasurer

Vice Presidents:

HARRY FLOWER, SYDNEY BLUESTONE, BEN ABELSON

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**BEN M. ABELSON
SYDNEY BLUESTONE
MORRIS BRAM
HARRY FLOWER
GEORGE GILBERT
EDWARD JANIS**

**ARNOLD H. KAGAN
ROBERT MESSING
EDWARD SCHUMAN
NATHAN SOBEL
SIDNEY OLSON
IRVING RUDIN**

**MOE WEINSCHTEL
MEL WACKS
STANLEY YULISH
Israel
ARIE KINDLER
YAAKOV MESHOREB
ELI SEMMELMAN**

Advisory Council: Presidents of all INS Clubs

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear six times a year with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to all related numismatic events.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

The Editor's Notebook . . .

It's hard to believe this issue of *The Shekel* is a reality! News events from across the world in Israel on one page facing stories originating in Alaska on the other! A masterful scholarly report on Mysteries of Israel's Trial Pieces (by *Coin World's* David T. Alexander which we were thrilled to be given permission to reprint in toto) and then a distinguished scholarly work by one of America's foremost numismatic scientist/scholars, Fred Jacobs, who presents a major study discovery on ancient coins. The photos on the AINA luncheon and the excellent news on the AINA medal commemorating that event will help you feel you were there — and if you are a medal collector, make you wish you were there. When you read Dr. Mendelssohn's piece, A Receipt for Palestine you'll nearly fall off the chair so be sure to read this piece in an armchair or reclining on a bed. The West Coast news is the GLACC (see Back Cover and GO! Go! Go!) plus another new INS in the L. A. area. Flash News: the Bank of Israel figures on coin production for the previous year, thanks to our correspondent Samuel Lachman in Haifa. Good reading. — GG

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

ARIE KINDLER, *Numismatic Consultant*

YA'AKOV MESHORER, *Numismatic Consultant*

SYLVIA HAFFNER, *Associate Editor*

Editorial Board

MORRIS BRAM

DAVID HENDIN
ED JANIS

GEORGE GILBERT
DAVID SCHAEFFER

MEL WACKS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The President's Message by Morris Bram	2
Mystery Veils Patterns, Trials of Israel's Coins by David T. Alexander (<i>A Coin World Report</i>)	3
Hanukka and Pidyon HaBen Coins Mintages Announced	9
AINA Luncheon at ANA Convention	10
AINA Luncheon Medal	12
INS of Alaska Formed	13
Bilingual British Occupation Overprint Notes by Herbert J. Kwart	15
Israel's Tokens at Sea by Dr. Samuel Halperin	17
Coins of Ancient Israel by David Hendin	19
New Israel 5-Agorot Coin by Samuel Lachman	20
The Aleph Beth Page by Edward Janis	21
Israel's Real First Commemorative: The 500 Prutah Silver? by D. Bernard Hoenig	22
The 1953 250-Prutah Notes of Israel by Lionel Holland	24
Barbaric Coins of the Royal Years Two and Three by Fred Jacobs	26
A Receipt for Palestine by Edwin Mendelssohn, M.D.	28
Mintage Figures for Year 5735/1975 by Samuel Lachman	31
A Medal of the Jewish National Fund by Samuel Lachman	32

Copyright © 1976 by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
All Rights Reserved.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Published six times a year. Membership \$8.00 per year. Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, New York 11365.

Printed in the U. S. A.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



How fast the year flies! It was only September and I was on the slopes of a glacier in Alaska, surrounded by ice and tossing snowballs with Syd Blue-stone, AINA Board member and an INS-er from Michigan. You are reading this in November and the major items I have to call to your attention are already dated March and May of 1977. *The months pass like speeding birds in the Arctic sky and the years are clouds moving not far behind.*

I must tell you first of the Alaskan hospitality and the reality of our newest INS group in Alaska's largest city: Anchorage. The youth and vitality there is perhaps best expressed in that our host was only 31 years old: Brock Shamberg; see the details on our Alaskan adventure elsewhere in this issue.

While we were en route via Seattle to the Alaskan scene, you too were busy. We returned to find nearly 200 entries to the AINA contest in connection with the Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Medal. These entries represent the effort of over 75 AINA and INS members from 28 states. I am pleased to announce the Medal Design Committee: A. H. Kagan, Board member and publisher of the Kagan reference work to Israel's coins and money; George Gilbert who is the *Shekel* Editor; Nahum Hacohen and Yitzhak Avni of the IGCAM; and myself as Chairman.

We have to pick the designs for reverse and obverse shortly to provide

time for the mint in Jerusalem to cut the dies and strike the bronze and silver medals which must be ready for the *Tenth Anniversary AINA Convention* in New York, early next May.

The AINA "Luncheon at ANA" gift medal (see photos elsewhere in this issue) is totally distributed: all were presented to the individual luncheon attendees and then the balance were sent out, one to each INS Club for its use, as a historical memento for the club's own collection, or for club auctioning or for presentation to a club officer or an honored guest. Its use is entirely up to the officers of each of the clubs.

Finally, the AINA *Ninth Study Tour* is on my mind and I hope on yours. By mail you will have received the information about our trip to Israel which this year includes flights to Eilat, to Mt. Sinai and to Israel's southernmost tip, the Sharm El Shekh base on the Red Sea. *Right now* is the time to mark the calendar (*March 7-21*) and to send off your \$100-per-person reservation to AINA (or to our travel agent; see name and address on the literature).

When we were in Alaska, I had on my overcoat but poor Sydney froze in his sport jacket. Sydney: in Israel in March you might need a topcoat for the evenings, but bring along your swim trunks. The water is *great* at Eilat!!

Shalom,
Morris Bram, president.

MYSTERY VEILS PATTERNS, TRIALS OF ISRAEL'S COINS

by David T. Alexander



Among the most exciting coins of any nation are the pattern and trial pieces. Especially in this era of numismatics, when high-quality catalogs present such total coverage that regular coins become rapidly things of familiarity, a mystery still clings to patterns and other "exceptional" issues.

Certainly, few modern coin series have been subjected to the rigorous study focused on Israel's coinage. After a slow start in the 1950s, the collecting of Israeli material has skyrocketed, and minute examination of the coins has revealed varieties hitherto unsuspected and unsought.

Patterns and trial pieces have cropped up as time has gone forward, and 1976 is unique in numismatic annals for the number of such rarities that have surfaced in public sales such as Paramount's auction of the J. C. Burnheimer collection and Pine Tree Auction Co.'s Raphael Ellenbogen sale.

Israel's first coinage was the famed 25 mils of 1948, struck in aluminum from dies engraved and believed tested in Jerusalem, then under Arab attack. Most of this scarce issue was then struck in a cutlery factory in the Tel Aviv industrial suburb of Holon.

Supervising this operation was the underground defense force, the Haganah, now fully emerged as the Israel army. Few authors have noted that Haganah had minting experience of an earlier and more primitive nature, the striking of the brass half-mil defense tokens used in the 1930s.



This 250 prutot of 1958 was planned as Israel's first commemorative. The 32-millimeter brass piece is from the Kadman Numismatic Museum collection in Tel Aviv. (Courtesy of Dr. Arie Kindler)



The late dean of Israel numismatists, Dr. Leo Kadman, inspired this set of the commemorative patterns, intended to mark the opening of the first Jewish Mint in the land of Israel since the Bar Kokhba war. Old and new Israel were to be symbolically linked by the modern style obverses and the ancient reverses of the cupronickel, Utrecht-struck pieces. (Courtesy of Dr. Arie Kindler, director of the Kadman Numismatic Museum, Tel Aviv)

Supervision was presumably less than airtight, as a number of interesting patterns or trial strikes are known. Uniface aluminum pieces, of proper weight and diameter exist, bearing only the reverse design with the Hebrew date "Tashach," 5708, corresponding to 1947/1948 in the Christian era.

The simple design of such one-sided trial coins has led, almost naturally, to ingenious obliteration of the obverse of normal coins, creating some dangerously passable "uniface" pieces, made uniface far from Holon's cutlery works.

When the delays in production and



Uniface patterns of Israel include the aluminum 25 mils of 1948 and the bronze 10 prutot of 1949. Both are of correct weight. (Ellenbogen collection)

delivery of the new Israel prutot coinage, being struck in Britain by Imperial Chemical Industries, (ICI) and the Heaton Mint, dragged on through 1949, the 25 mils coinage continued with a new date "Tashat," 1948/1949.

Of this second date are known several colorful pattern and trial strikes in a number of metals. Although these were supposed to have been destroyed, persistent rumor traces their escape to a former Israeli Mint employee who placed them quietly on the market years after they were supposedly "taken care of."

Uniface trials in lead were made, and such pieces have appeared in two public auctions of the Pine Tree Auction Galleries in 1974 and 1976. The shapes of these lead strikes are dramatically different. One rectangular specimen in aluminum has been illustrated by cataloger Sylvia Haffner, who has also published photos of a third piece in lead.

Copper and pewter strikes were also made, and it seems more than likely that these, too, survive. Now well known are the brass impressions,

which also exist in a unique form: irregular shards, created by taking heavy tin snips to intact brass coins. Copper trials were apparently similarly treated.

The variety of the 25 mils which have reached the numismatic market might suggest that the dies were also "liberated," but no evidence for this exists. Removing heavy dies would have been a different operation than the smuggling of flat, more easily concealed coins in any case.

The second generation of Israel pattern coinage is the 25 prutot bearing the raised word "SPECIMEN" on the reverse between the Hebrew word prutot and the date. Struck by ICI, presumably for official inspection and approval after the negative remarks about the quality of the 25 mils, these patterns are also appearing in auctions this year.

Specimens of this 25 prutot have made their bow in cupronickel, the normal metal for this issue, and also in the form of an aluminum Proof specimen in the Burnheimer collection.



The brass impression of the 1949 25 mils is believed unique, as its shipments were all cut to pieces with metal shears. Several of these fragments have reached collections such as that of Raphael Ellenbogen.

Haffner has recorded the existence of a 1951 scalloped-edge 10 prutot with a similar "specimen," and the 1949 10 prutot is also known in uni-face copper.

The question might be asked whether specimen strikes were made of the 50, 100 or 250 prutot. Why not the bronze five and 10; or the crown-sized 500 prutot, for that matter. The familiar story that the barley ears of the 250 prutot had been intended for the five prutot has tantalizing possibilities in this context.

Another ICI trial is known without "SPECIMEN," a bronze 100 prutot believed to be unique. In view of this coin's recent appearance, it may not be impossible to expect yet more such specimen strikes and off-metal pieces in the coming years.

One well-documented pattern set of coins or coin-medals is that created in the mid-1950's at the instigation of the late Dr. Leo Kadman, a numismatist whose ideas were often ahead of their time.

Kadman believed that some form of commemoration should mark the creation of the first Jewish Mint in the land of Israel in over 18 centuries, to recall ancient Israel and to underscore the continuity between ancient Israel and modern Jewish populations in the Holy Land.

He worked out a set of three pieces, which in his pioneer catalog "Israel's Money" of 1963 Kadman called coins, in 25, 50 and 100 prutot denominations. Kadman Museum Director Arie Kindler, on the other hand, calls these pieces coin-medals in his review of them in the Autumn 1968 issue of *The Shekel*, organ of the American Israel Numismatic Society.

Somewhat similar obverses to the circulating prutot coinage featured the seven-branched date palm on the 100 prutot; a grape leaf appeared on the 50 prutot, and the familiar bunch of grapes was used on the 25 prutot commemorative. All were struck in cupronickel at the Utrecht Mint in the Netherlands.

Kadman regarded the modern design side as the obverse, which bore the Hebrew inscription, "Renewal of Israel's Mint, 3892-5714," the Hebrew calendar dates of the ancient and present minting facilities.

On the reverse, Kadman prescribed slightly stylized versions of coins of the First Revolt, 66-70 A.D. and the Bar Kokhba War, 132-135 A.D., bearing their historic inscriptions in ancient Hebrew letters.

Thus, the Bar Kokhba announcement "Jerusalem" graces the 100 prutot; the First Revolt's rallying cry "For the Freedom of Jerusalem" appears on the 50 prutot; and the Bar Kokhba defiance "Year One for the

Redemption of Israel" provided the reverse inscription of the 25 prutot.

His proposed coinage was worked out shortly before the creation of the new Bank of Israel, and the idea was to be shelved in order not to conflict with maturing plans for the commemoration of the state's 10th anniversary in 1958.

It is known that Dr. Kadman possessed a set of these patterns; who else may have had them is a matter of speculation. In the Kadman Numismatic Museum, a component of the municipal Museum Ha'aretz group in Tel Aviv, a more than complete set may be seen.



LEFT

Pattern or Mint error? This 10 agorot, normally aluminum-bronze and round, was struck on a scalloped one-agora planchet, believed to be part of the Israel Mint's preparations for substitution of aluminum for lower denominations in 1974.

RIGHT

Mementos of Israel's earliest coinage are these two uniface lead trial strikes of the reverse of the 1949-dated 25 mils, ordinarily struck in aluminum.



The famed "Eight Grains" aluminum one agora of 1960 is so called for the number of grains in the barley ear at left. This is also the Large Date type, one of a tiny number accidentally released into circulation. (Courtesy Pine Tree Auction Galleries, Inc.)

This set contains the coin-medals described above plus a muling of the Utrecht die for the circulation 25 prutot with the ancient style reverse. This museum also holds a bronze enlargement set for display, a gift of the Utrecht Mint.

Another highly exciting pattern, perhaps the last in the prutot series, is the brass 250 prutot dated 1958, forerunner of the remarkable Israeli commemorative series. Prepared for the 10th anniversary of independence, the concave-sided, 32-millimeter pattern has design features later adopted for the silver commemorative five pounds actually issued in 1958.

The obverse presents a stylized Menorah of seven arms, joined at the top by a crosspiece; below is the Hebrew inscription, "Tenth Anniversary of Israel." The reverse bears the dates and name of the country at top, with the denomination far below.

From 1:00 to 3:00 stretches a line of 10 Stars of David, symbolizing the anniversary. The general layout of the reverse was adapted by the five pounds offered to collectors in 1958.

Why this coin, of which about four are known, was not struck and released is not known with absolute certainty. In all probability, the committees decision to plan for one and five pound pieces for Independence Day and Hanukkah release made the 250 prutot superfluous.

Then too, the progress of inflation by 1958 was making a restudy of the coinage necessary, as a pound divided into 1,000 units was increasingly cumbersome. In 1960, the prutot ceased and the pound was now divided into 100 new units, the agorot.

This changeover brought into existence another family of patterns, the aluminum one agora pieces of 1960. This small scalloped coin was to bear three barley ears, patterned after the ancient bronze pruta of Agrippa I, circa 43 A.D.

For a number of artistic reasons, balancing the three ears, which spread to right and left, proved difficult. The first few pieces struck for official approval featured eight barley grains in the left-hand ear. Several varieties of this "eight grains" pattern have been identified by sharp-eyed numismatists, all exceedingly rare.

For balance, the Israeli authorities ordered 10 grains for the left ear on circulation strikes, and about this time it was discovered that several of the "eight grains" had carelessly been placed in circulation.

The search for these escapees has gone on ever since, with six at least of the estimated 10 lost pieces accounted for in museum and private collections. No Israel pattern has received as much publicity as this one agorot.



Raised lettering tells this pattern's story: It is one of the ICI-struck "SPECIMEN" 25-prutot pieces of 1949. (From Pine Tree Auction Galleries' Ellenbogen collection sale)

Today, the one agorot has fallen victim to the relentless inflation and has all but ceased to circulate. A similar fate seems likely to overtake the aluminum-bronze five agorot, and plans are believed far advanced to begin striking this denomination in aluminum.

This decision is believed to have precipitated a trial strike or pattern of the 10 agorot in aluminum, struck on the planchet of a one agorot in 1974.

This unique piece appears in the Pine Tree auction of the Ellenbogen collection, and is no doubt the most recent Israeli pattern in collector custody.

Few collectors today could realistically expect to own even a few of these Israel pattern coins, yet the hope is always there. In the meantime the specimens in museums and the ones illustrated in catalogs enable all to study and admire these milestones in Israel's numismatic development.

NEW HANUKKA AND PIDYON HABEN COINS TO BE ISSUED BY ISRAEL IN LIMITED MINTAGE

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has announced the forthcoming new 1976 Hanukka and 1977 Pidyon Haben silver coins. Maximum mintage is as follows:

Hanukka — B.U. 25,000;
Proof: 20,000.

Pidyon Haben — B.U. 25,000;
Proof: 20,000.

In the prior two years, the final mintage was as follows:

		1975	1974
Hanukka	B.U.	44,400	74,375
	Proof:	33,650	58,900
Pidyon		1976	1975
Haben	B.U.	50,000	63,000
	Proof:	29,600	49,450

The Hanukka Coin will be offered during September with the Pidyon Haben Coin to be offered later this year.

BRAM, HAFFNER AND MESHORER STAR AT AINA LUNCHEON AT ANA CONVENTION

Guests Receive Specially Struck
AINA Washington Medal

Nearly two hundred members of AINA and friends gathered for a luncheon on the final day of the ANA Convention at the Americana Hotel, New York City in late August. They heard a major presentation by Yaakov Meshorer, Curator of Numismatics at the Israel Museum on rare and newly discovered coins of the Holy Land.

Honored guests at the luncheon were introduced by Morris Bram, president of AINA and by Chairperson Sylvia Haffner who introduced such convention celebrities as Virgil Hancock, President of the ANA and Jackson Storm, General Chairman of the ANA Convention. Morris Bram was Honorary General Chairman of the

Association's first convention in New York for many years.

All luncheon guests received a gift from AINA: a specially struck medal in bronze with Washington Crossing the Delaware on the obverse and the AINA Bicentennial reverse. Only 300 of the medals were struck and none will be sold to AINA members or the public, announced Mr. Bram.

The focus of the luncheon, after introduction of leading numismatic figures in the audience from ANA, from AINA's Board of Directors, and a number of INS presidents was the presentation by Dr. Meshorer. One of the fascinating points he wished to make is the role of ancient coins in



Ya'acov Meshorer explains details of recently discovered ancient coins shown for the first time to the luncheon audience of AINA at ANA.



Top row, left to right: Jackson Storm greets luncheon guests on behalf of ANA; Morris Bram and Sylvia Haffner.

Middle Row, left to right: Ed Rochette of ANA and Morris Bram; Ya'acov Meshorer and Sylvia Haffner.

Bottom Row, left to right: Franz Frankl and Morris Bram; Ed Janis, Morris Bram, Nat Sobel and Sylvia Haffner.

clarifying little known historical facts. He used photographs taken at Banias, starting point of the Jordan River and the known site of early pagan religions, to explain how archaeologists and historians have sought information on the nature of the idols believed to have been worshipped at the well-known cave at the site.

Photographs of coins found only recently fill in the gap in knowledge with clear illustrations of the myth-god Pan, god of the shepherds, standing in a niche which has long been empty of statuary. The coin establishes very clearly that the niche held a full-length figure of the idol, Pan, playing the flute.

WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE MEDAL SPECIALLY STRUCK AS LUNCHEON MEMENTO

ONE OF 300 MEDALS; limited edition has reverse of AINA Bicentennial and repeats U. S. history theme on obverse.



Special 39mm medal in bronze and silver was struck in a quantity of 300 by the Medallic Arts Company, Conn. Obverse repeats AINA Bicentennial design and reverse features sculptured crossing of the Delaware by George Washington on the night of the Battle of Trenton which defeated the Hessians in the surprise Christmas attack.

All departing guests receive medal in a box, one to each person; crowds lined up at exit gate to await gift moment at Americana Hotel.



From l. to r.: Peter Moss, Moe Borowsky, Robert Brueggeman and John C. Mandel as guests departing from the AINA luncheon each received one of the bronze medals.

ALASKAN INS FORMED IN ANCHORAGE AS A YOUNG ATTORNEY'S DREAM COMES TRUE

Alaska . . . the state with the youngest population with an average age that might be as low as 25 and a total population of only 400,000 has become the newest state to offer the benefits of an Israel Numismatic Society and membership in AINA, thanks to the enthusiasm of a young Texan, now Alaskan attorney, Brock Shamberg, an avid collector of Israel's coinage.

After writing to AINA, a committee of two, Morris Bram, president of AINA and Sydney Bluestone, an A.I.N.A. vice-president from Michigan made the early Fall flight to Anchorage to introduce local numismatists to the advantages and programs of AINA.

Over 35 Alaskans responded to a written invitation sent to AINA members and subscribers to the IGCAM mailings to participate in a Sunday meeting at the Congregation Beth Shalom in Anchorage and on the spot set the basis for the new INS group. R. Brock Shamberg was nominated president, and Erling Christiansen as V. P. Albert DeValve and Barry Dushman will serve as Secretary and Treasurer, reported Mr. Bram after completion of the early September tour which included AINA work meetings with the planners of the Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention and flights via Seattle to Anchorage.

Some members of the newly formed

INS are residents of Nome and Juneau, 200 to 300 miles from Anchorage. They expect to attend special occasions of the group.

The formative meeting heard reports from Mr. Bluestone on his experience as an officer of the INS of Michigan while Morris Bram gave the group a brief history of the American Israel Numismatic Association since its founding nine years ago. A film, *Coins and Medals of Modern Israel* was shown as an introduction to the beauty and cultural role of Israel's numismatics.

Sightseeing for the AINA delegation was a special opportunity with the wide-eyed and easily astonished team of Bram and Bluestone startled and delighted by the rugged life of the Alaskan people. They handled ice from a glacier and visited a stream where one may pan for gold. They were confronted by brutish husky dogs held back by chains and they were entertained in the log cabin home of their host who by day is the corporate attorney in one of Anchorage's few skyscrapers and who by night is the log cabin dweller in the wilderness.

Said Bram:

"I have formed many INS groups since I have been president but never before was it so exciting and satisfying . . . an unforgettable and thrilling experience."



WARM FRIENDSHIPS SOON OVERCOME ALASKAN GLACIER CHILL

A two-day visit to the City of Anchorage, Alaska was mixed with sight-seeing, visits to local numismatists and a never-to-be-forgotten first meeting of the INS of Alaska.

Top, left: Morris Bram and Brock Shamberg meet downtown in Anchorage.

Lower left: Albert DeValve, Secretary; Erling Christiansen, Vice President; Morris Bram, President of AINA; R. Brock Shamberg, President of INS of Alaska; Barry Dushman, Treasurer; and Sydney Bluestone, Board member of AINA at the induction of officers for the new INS.

Top right: Bram and Shamberg in the airport waiting room.

Right center: Sydney Bluestone and Morris Bram at the edge of a glacier about 60 miles outside of Anchorage.

Lower right: Part of the crowd gathered for the formation of the new Israel Numismatic Society of Alaska.

BI-LINGUAL BRITISH OCCUPATION OVERPRINT NOTES OF PALESTINE

by Herbert J. Kwart

(All rights reserved)

Unknown and rarely ever seen by the collector of Judaic material are two English overprint Bradbury notes, a Ten Shilling note and a One Pound note. Both were used as occupation currency in Palestine during the period of 1917-1927.

Listed in Sylvia Haffner's *The History of Modern Israel Money 1917-1970* in her chapter on "Banknotes of Turkey" and under the heading of British Occupation Notes she has catalogued these two notes as T-48 and T-49. The notes began circulating in

Palestine during the period when it was captured by the British in 1917.

Turkish currency was outlawed and replaced with Egyptian currency until 1927 when a local currency (*Palestine Currency Board Notes*) was issued.

This pair of overprint banknotes are of interest to the collector of English banknotes and are listed in Colen Narbeth's *Collect British Banknotes* under the heading "Treasury Notes." He has catalogued them as T-15 and T-16.

One-pound note with
Arabic-Turkish over-
print.



Ten-Shilling note has
red printing on white.



They are in the second issue of Bradbury Notes. How these notes came to Palestine makes an interesting story.

These notes were issued for the use of the entire British Military and Naval Expeditionary Forces in the Mediterranean in May and June of 1915. They were originally intended for payment to troops concerned in the Gallipolis Invasion during the Dardanelles Campaign which was carried out in order to capture Istanbul and to help the Russian Forces on the Eastern Front. These notes eventually found their way into Palestine and were used as currency by the British Occupation Forces.

The Ten Shilling note (Pick R1-overprint on Pick 85) has red printing on white. It has black Arabic-Turkish overprint writing and under the Ten Shillings. The upper overprint writing in Arabic-Turkish is "60 *Gymsh Grush*", which translated reads "Piastres Silver 60" and the bottom line reads "Altyмыш Gymsh Grush", which translated reads "Piastres Silver 60." The reverse of the note is blank.

The One Pound note (Pick R2-overprint on Pick 86) has red Arabic-

Turkish writing above and below the One Pound. The upper overprint in Arabic-Turkish writing is "120 *Gymsh Grush*", which translated reads "Piastres Silver 120" and the bottom line of overprints is "Jyz Jirmi *Gymsh*" which translated reads "Piastres Silver One Hundred and Twenty". The reverse of the note is blank.

Some key features of these notes are John Bradbury's signature as Secretary to the Treasury and KGV portrait facing left on the top left side of the note being counterbalanced with King George and the Dragon in the upper right side of the note. A continuous watermark of the Royal Cipher "GR" is woven throughout the fabric of the note. Both notes are considered rare and classified as 5R. Treasury notes of England ceased to be issued in November 1928 when the Bank of England took over responsibility for their redemption.

In a recent Stanley Gibbons Auction held on May 5, 1976, the pair of overprint notes in VF condition went for \$1,890.00 or £1050.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collect British Banknotes — Colin Narbeth, 1970.
History of Modern Israel Money 1917-1970 — Sylvia Haffner, June 1970.
Stanley Gibbons Auctions, Sale 5386, May 5, 1976.

AINA'S NINTH STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL

WILL VISIT TEL AVIV, HAIFA and
JERUSALEM . . . plus MT. SINAI,
SHARM-EL-SHEKH and ELIAT

all inclusive cost for deluxe trip: \$1249.00

MARCH 7-21, 1977

Reserve by sending \$100 per person
to A.I.N.A. today.

ISRAEL'S TOKENS AT SEA: A NEW LISTING

by Dr. Samuel Halperin,
Washington, D. C.

As in so many other fields of Israeli numismatics, Sylvia Haffner was first to catalog the paper and bakelite tokens used aboard Israeli passenger vessels in the late Fifties and early Sixties. Her landmark volume, *The History of Modern Israel's Money (Second Edition of 1970)*, lists three distinct sets of tokens used aboard

ships of Shoham Maritime Services and the Sommerfin Line.

This brief article will not repeat the helpful descriptions and explanations written by Mrs. Haffner (see pages 358-60). Rather, I wish to publish a previously unlisted set of 12 tokens or consumption vouchers issued by Shoham at about the same period.

Denominations and colors (all numbers in black, except as noted):

		FRAME COLOR	BACKGROUND COLOR	REVERSE MOTTO
1.	50 prutah	bright blue	light blue	D
2.	50 prutah (red numbers)	steel blue	grey	B
3.	100 prutah	dull purple	yellow	C
4.	100 prutah	light brown	yellow	A
5.	200 prutah	dull green	green	B
6.	200 prutah	bright green	light green	A
7.	250 prutah	bright pink	light pink	B
8.	250 prutah	dark pink	light pink	C
9.	500 prutah	grey	grey	A
10.	1000 prutah/one lira	dark orange	yellow	D
11.	2500 prutah/2½ lirot	dull yellow	light yellow	C
12.	500 prutah (red numbers) lettered in red: "For Crew Only"; larger size 6¼ x 3¾ inches.	grey	light grey	blank reverse

Reverse Inscriptions or Mottoes (in Hebrew, above, and in English below):

- A cartoon of hand holding telegram & post card; "Remember your Family and Friends! Postcards—obtainable at the Bar/Cables-Acceptance in Purser's Office"
- B cartoon of bands; "Your Favourite Tune will be played by the Band—Ask for it!"
- C cartoon of bar, liquor, candy; "The Bar offers you Cigarettes, Sweets and drinks—Pay with Consumption Vouchers!"
- D cartoon of couple on deck-chairs; "Hire Your Deck-Chair and pay with Consumption Vouchers!"

Face Inscriptions (in English and in Hebrew, reading from top to bottom):

"This Voucher is Invalid if Detached"

"Shoham Consumption Voucher"

"Date" and "No."

"To the Purser of All Ships Managed by Shoham Sherutey Hayman (Shoham Maritime Services) Ltd."

"Please Supply to _____ Bar or Buffet Requirements to a Value of _____"

"Valid on Ship Only"



The photograph shows one of the 12 tokens in the value of 100 prutot, ("100 prutah" is incorrectly printed on the face). Each token or "consumption voucher" is approximately $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The tokens were removed from some type of booklet, since the left edges are rouletted for easier detachment. The author has no information as to who printed the tokens or when, although we may surmise that the date must have been before 1960, when *agorot* replaced *prutot* as the national small change

coinage unit.

Included are descriptions of the inscriptions, denominations and colors. The former provide a vivid image of how these tokens were exchanged for goods and services aboard Israel's merchant vessels as they plied the Mediterranean and, possibly, as they soiled on the Haifa-North America route. It is hoped that readers of *The Shekel* will add their knowledge to this scanty numismatic information which has all but vanished in only a single generation.

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



At the recent convention of the American Numismatic Association in New York I was surprised to meet several collectors who were especially interested in ancient "error" coins.

They aren't the same as modern "error" collectors!

Errors in ancient coins occurred a hundred — or a thousand times more often than they occur today.

Two thousand years ago there were no machine-tooled, well-oiled robots plunking out pressure-cast coins from flawless metal dies.

Every die was engraved by hand. Every coin was struck by hand. Instead of the cleaner-than-clean rooms I have visited at mints in San Francisco or Birmingham, England, ancient mints more closely resembled primitive blacksmith shops, busier and noisier, though, than one you may have seen in Colonial Williamsburg.

Since every coin was hand made — and you can be sure the mint workers were hurried along by impatient bosses — there was plenty of room for error.

Anyone who has looked at even a few ancient coins, whether Greek, Roman or those of Ancient Israel, can attest that what holds true for modern coins is *reversed*. That is, *the vast majority of modern coins are engraved and struck to perfection*. It is very rare, however, to find an ancient coin that is really perfect.

If it's not off-center, then it was struck on a broken flan. If the flan is perfect, then it has been double struck . . . and so on.

Many collectors, however, fail to realize that the greatest value of these ancient "errors" is what they can teach us about the ancient methods of minting coins.



The blanks, or flans for the Judaeen bronze coins were made by casting metal in molds consisting of shallow, round sockets connected by channels. After pouring molten metal into the molds and letting it cool, strips of coins connected by short metal ribbons were removed. These are called flan strips. An assistant would re-heat each strip and then place the first blank flan in between two striking dies on a sturdy base, perhaps a tree trunk. The moneyer hit the top die with a hammer, thus striking the coin. Then the assistant pulled the strip one coin further, and the process was repeated.

Since this was all done fairly quick-

Continued on page 20

NEW ISRAEL 5-AGOROT ALUMINUM COIN

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

On September 2, 1976, a new 5-agorot aluminum coin was issued in Israel in the same design as the previous aluminum-bronze coin. The obverse shows again the three ripe pomegranates and the reverse the numeral 5, and agorot and year 5736 in Hebrew letters.

The diameter of the coin is 17.6mm, and its weight 0.77g.; individual coins may differ by as much as 0.02g. The planchets of the coins were produced in Israel.

It is thought that the metal composition of the coins is the same as that of the discontinued 1-agora coins. The coins have a plain edge. The change from aluminum-bronze to aluminum became necessary in view of the rise in production costs of the aluminum-



bronze coins to 6½-agorot, a cost change after 13 devaluations of the Israel pound in the recent period.

Although officially in circulation, none of the new coins were seen as of Sept. 3, however.

The continuing surge of inflation will probably bring about an aluminum 10-agorot in the near future. The smallest value Israel coin, the scalloped aluminum one agora, is now out of circulation altogether.

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL (Continued)

ly, the coins were struck off-center more often than not. After striking, the flan strip was chopped apart into coins and the remaining metal scraps were melted down once again.

Photo A shows a bronze flan that escaped striking and has been preserved as an ancient "slug" for thousands of years.

Sometimes the man in charge of chopping the coins apart didn't do a very good job, resulting in coins with long projections from one or both sides, such as the coin of Alexander Jannaeus shown in *photo B*.

Occasionally the flan strip broke, one flan becoming stuck in the lower die (or vice versa) after striking. When the next flan was inserted and struck, it received the full strike from the top die, but instead of receiving the impression from the bottom die, it received the face of a coin that had already been struck by the top die. This caused the design of the top die to be impressed *in incuse* on the reverse of the coin. The Hasmonean

coin shown in *photo C* resulted from such a mistake. Its obverse shows the usual double cornucopia, pomegranate and decorations, but the reverse shows the exact design struck in incuse, like a negative.

Yet another minting error common in ancient times was double striking. *Photo D* shows the reverse of a coin of Agrippa I that has been struck twice. The resulting design shows three ears of barley pointing upward and three ears struck across them.

Sometimes the dies used for striking coins cracked or broke. Usually one or more coins were struck with the damaged die before it was discovered and replaced. *Photo E* shows the obverse of a coin of Hyrcanus II with a very obvious crack down the center of the die.

These are but a few of the types of ancient minting errors. Perhaps in a future column we will discuss others, as well as engraving errors such as the fascinating — and controversial — retrograde inscriptions.

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. Is it true that there is no difference in the regular and proof pieces except for the "mem" in the five and ten pound commemorative and special commemorative issues? W. K. Maplewood, N. J.

A. As far as the five lirot pieces from 1958 through 1967, I would say that you are correct because they are all struck on planchets that are .900 fine; the diameters are all 34mm and the weights are all 25 grams. In the 10 pounders which started in 1968 with the 20th Anniversary Jerusalem piece through the 26th Anniversary, the metal remained at .900 silver; the size was increased to 37mm and the weight was increased to 26 grams.

Special ten pound issues were the Victory Coin in 1967 and the Let My People Go in 1971. Both were 37mm and weighed 26 grams. The silver for both the regular and the proof issues for the Let My People Go were .900 fine. For the Victory, only the regular issue was .900 fine but in the proof, the silver was .935 fine.

There are some differences in die varieties because of mints (Berne vs. Kretschmer; or Berne vs. Jerusalem, etc.), double strikes, re-cut dies etc. but these differences are well covered by your Kagan book.

Q. The Agora series started in 1960 with 1, 5, 10 and 25 Agorot issued in that year and (according to Kagan) the half-lira and lira issued in 1963. Were not the half-lira pieces of 1961 and 1962 part of this series? R. Y., D. D. S., Charleston, N. C.

A. Although they are legal tender, the pieces marked Chatzi Lirot, Half Lira, are not part of the regular commercial coinage. They are the "Half Shekel" issues of 1961 and 1962 that were issued in regular and proof to celebrate the Feast of Purim and issued by the Bank of Israel for commemoration purposes and not regular issue.

There is no legal denomination known as a "shekel" and so the coin, to have official legal tender status bore the value, in Hebrew, of half lirot rather than half shekel. Nobody refers to these commemorative coins as half liras but always as half shekels. It was a short lived issue as it was only issued for these two years in 1961 and 1962.

Could you spend them? Sure you could. I imagine that some unknowing people did. The official rate of the coin in 1961 was 28c and in 1962 around 17c. The issue cost of the regular issue was 75c and the proof was \$1.50. It is obvious that somebody lost money if they used these as regular issue coins.

In this country, I can remember finding Columbia halves of 1892, Stone Mountain Commemorative halves of 1925, the Booker T. Washington halves of 1946-50 and the Washington-Carver halves of 1951-1954 in regular change. I, like everybody else, passed them on until the numismatic value exceeded the depressed value caused by the glut and overproduction of these issues which were also issued at a premium.

Commencing with the next issue of THE SHEKEL this column will donate a small paragraph on VARIA. Varia in numismatics can be defined as a variation of a coin, ancient or modern, that differs from the accepted published coin. The variation may be in the metal, size, legend and may be in fact a correction of heretofore published material, that contains wrong information such as attribution of a coin.

Let me hear from you; this is your column. Let your findings become the knowledge of all. Too often small bits of numismatic knowledge go to the grave with us because we fail to tell the rest of the numismatic fraternity of our finds and researches.

WILL ISRAEL'S REAL FIRST COMMEMORATIVE PLEASE STAND UP?

by D. Bernard Hoenig

If asked to name the "grand-daddy" of Israel's commemorative series, most numismatists would hardly hesitate to hail, "the 1958 five lira 'Menorah' coin" which has even been adopted by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Department as its official emblem.

Yet, seven years before the intro-

duction of the commemorative program, the Ministry of Finance was busy striking a most beautiful coin that, in reality, has long deserved the title of "Israel's first commemorative coin."

Known simply as the 500 Prutah Silver, it was originally struck in 1951, then reminted in 1952 and 1953. Its obverse depicts a branch with stylized pomegranates, modeled from the Shekels minted during the *War of the Jews Against Rome* in 66-70 C.E. The design was proposed by the renowned numismatists Leo Kadman and Hanan Pavel in conjunction with designer Ote Wallish in July 1948. It is actually the very same design that now adorns the current one lira pieces which came into existence 16 years later in 1967.

Appearing on the coin's reverse is the inscription "500 Prutah — 5709" in Hebrew letters, between two stylized olive branches, similar to the reverse sides of all prutah coins. It bears a milled edge and beaded rim.

Considering that it is catalogued by the IGCAM as a trade coin, the reclassification of the 500 Prutah as a *commemorative* — and first of its kind — certainly requires some convincing evidence bolstered both by logical thinking and the in-depth reasoning of a Talmudic scholar. Perhaps the following analysis will suffice:

1. Firstly, one basic premise must be immediately dismissed as erroneous and misleading. The 500 Prutah is not — and was never intended to be — one of the *regular* Prutah trade coins. The Prutah series, issued from 1949 through 1960, consisted of seven coins only: the 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 250 prutot. According to government records, not one of the 500



1951 500 Prutah Silver coin was also minted in 1952 and 1953. It is based on a design from Shekels minted during the *War of the Jews against Rome* (66-70 C.E.).

Prutah coins, although legal tender, ever found its way into circulation for use as regular currency.

2. As confirmed by S. Aviezer, Head of the Currency Supply Unit of the *Bank of Israel*, the 500 Prutah shares the honor with the specially minted 250 Prutah (minted in England by the *Mint Birmingham, Ltd.*) as being the first and only pre-1958 coins *to be made specifically for tourist and numismatic purposes and not for use as trade currency.* [*Italics by Editor*].

3. Both the 500 and 250 Prutot are composed of 50% silver, 37.5% copper and 12.5% nickel, thus giving them the distinction of being the first silver coins to be struck by the State of Israel.

4. The 500 Prutah, however, stands alone as the first and only Israeli coin ever to be minted with a diameter of 38mm, placing it in the category of first crown-sized coin of the Jewish state.

5. A total three year mintage figure of only 33,812 when compared to the other prutah coins with issues reaching into the low millions separates the 500 Prutah from the trade coin series and further qualifies it as a special or commemorative issue.

6. Nor does the 250 Prutah Silver — despite its low mintage of 44,125, unique "H" mintmark and silver composition — present any real challenge to the 500 Prutah in its quest to be Israel's first commemorative. The 250 Prutah in silver was merely a duplication of the regular 1949 cupro-nickel 250 Prutah trade coin which has a total mintage of 2,020,000, while the 500 Prutah Silver has absolutely no trade coin counterpart in any form, size or composition.

7. Many skeptics will ask, *what does this commemorative commemorate?* The answer, of course, depends upon the meaning given to commemorative coins by the particular government involved. The United States has issued approximately 75 commemorative

coins since 1892 — mostly half dollar pieces — and all of them are dedicated to some national event or person of renown. Some of the smaller nations, such as Panama and the Bahamas, have recently minted "commemoratives" that are unique only because of their size, proof condition or metal composition.

Israel's 1961-1962 half-shekel coins, however, are classified as commemoratives although they are dedicated to nothing in particular. Their purpose, indicated the IGCAM, was for use as the traditional Purim contribution made by Jews the world over during the joyous festival. The Pidyon Haben coins are likewise in the nature of "special purpose" pieces rather than pure commemoratives and are to be utilized during the colorful redemption of the First Born Son in accordance with Biblical precepts.

An Israeli "Sleeper"?

Similarly, the 500 Prutah has a designated purpose: to serve as one of the first numismatic souvenirs. In addition, it bears an interesting and unusual feature that is shared by no other Israeli commemorative: Its Hebrew date "5709" corresponds to the English calendar year of 1949 although the coin was not minted until 1951! Perhaps, then, with a little circular reasoning it can be said that the 500 Prutah was actually struck to commemorate the State of Israel's first official coinage — the 1949 Prutah series. Only the 25 mil piece carried the date "1948" but it was not part of any trade series and it was quickly withdrawn from circulation due to its poor quality.

The 500 Prutah with its many unique characteristics and extremely low mintage is probably the "sleeper" of Israeli commemoratives. While there are no known proofs and very few are in true "B.U." condition, it nevertheless meets all of the tests of a potentially rare coin.

Certainly the 500 Prutah should be a fascinating addition to the collection of the commemorative specialist.

THE 1953 250-PRUTAH NOTES OF ISRAEL

by Lionel Holland, Haifa

Published data on the 1953 250-Prutah notes are very scanty (see *Kadman*, *Haffner*, and *Kagan* respectively). The data can be summarized as follows:

Issued for circulation: November 1953 by the Israel Treasury.

12,582,000 notes printed (by the Israel Government Printer, Jerusalem) in three series distinguished by the Hebrew letters "*Aleph*", "*Beth*", and "*Gimmel*" respectively. Some of the notes (cf. *Haffner*, *Kagan*) have a faint gold or white "*Menorah*" (seven-branched candlestick, the emblem of the State of Israel) in the top left corner of the obverse, between the Arabic inscription and the serial number.

In addition to all of these, it is common knowledge that there are notes having a "*Menorah*" visible at the *right* of the obverse field. These are purported to be scarcer than those with a left-hand "*Menorah*".

The origin, nature and function of the "*Menorah*" has not been explained by the above-mentioned authorities. While attempts to elicit more information from official sources have to date proved fruitless, much can be learned by studying the notes themselves. An examination of several dozen of these (from many different series) by the writer yielded the following information:

1. The "*Menorah*" fluoresces strongly under ultra-violet radiation. The emitted light is bluish-white.
2. The fluorescence is much stronger on one face of the note than on the other.
3. The fluorescence is masked by those printed areas of the note which overlap the outline of the "*Menorah*".
4. All notes of series "*Gimmel*" examined by the writer have a "*Menorah*". Some "*Menoroth*" can be clearly seen in daylight; some are barely discernible; some are invisible. All, however, fluoresce equally brightly under ultra-violet light.

Given these facts, the purpose of the "*Menorah*" can be reasonable surmised. It is probably a security measure, intended to facilitate the detection of forgeries.

During the 1950's there were a number of attempts to smuggle forged paper money into Israel, mostly through the Gaza Strip (at that time under Egyptian military rule). The 250-prutah notes, then being produced by relatively unsophisticated processes, could have been considered inviting targets for forgery. Fluorescent materials are often incorporated, for security purposes, into paper money. In this case, the "*Menorah*" was printed with a white or near-colourless ink containing a fluorescent pigment and probably also a colourless, fluorescent organic dyestuff. This was done before printing the visible design of the note; hence the masking affect of the latter.

If, between one printing stage and the next, the note paper were turned over, the "*Menorah*" would end up on the reverse of the note. In viewing the note from the obverse side, the "*Menorah*" would then appear displaced towards the right. Close examination shows that, in fact, all the "left-hand *Menorah*" are printed on the obverse of the note, and all the "right-hand *Menorah*" on the reverse.

On some of the notes of series "*Gimmel*" on which no "*Menorah*" could be seen, the "*Menorah*" was found to be present, but displayed *downwards* towards, the horizontal median. Here it is largely masked by the densely printed design, and while quite undetectable to the unaided eye, it is clearly visible under ultra-violet.

"*Menoroth*" were also found on some (not all) notes of the series "*Aleph*" and "*Beth*". In these cases, the "*Menorah*" is displaced towards the horizontal median of the note, and



THIRD ISSUE

1953

Issued by: Government Printer, The Treasury
 Denomination: Pruta 1,000 Pruta = 1 Lira (Israel)
 Printer: The Government Printing Press
 Date: Without

hence impossible to detect without a uv lamp. "Menoroth" were found on notes with the following serial numbers: *Aleph-1034-97233*; *Aleph-1009-16427*; *Aleph-1643-99748*; *Beth-1041-9807*.

A curious overprint has recently been observed by the writer on a series "Gimmel" note (no. 1002-98174). This consists of the legend "BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL B.M." printed in Hebrew letters 5mm high, a few millimeters from — and parallel to — the lower reverse margin. The legend is inverted with respect to the reverse design. Here again, the legend is printed in a near-transparent, faintly yellow ink, scarcely visible in daylight but strongly fluorescent. Microscopic examination confirms that this is a true overprint, made *on top* of the visible design.

No official explanation has so far been forthcoming for this overprint. The "Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M." is a commercial bank which was responsible for the distribution of new paper money issues until the incorporation of the Bank of Israel in 1954. The only other specimen of this overprint known to the writer is in the possession of a collector in Tel Aviv. He has the serial no. *Gimmel-1026-88798*.

In conclusion:

1. The "Menorah" on the 250 Prutah notes is probably a security device, not intended to be seen except under UV light.

2. All series "Gimmel" notes have a "Menorah", as do some notes of the "Aleph" and "Beth" series.

3. The "left-" and "right-hand" variants are determined by which face of the note has the "Menorah" printed on it.

4. At least one type of fluorescent overprint is at present known. Examination of a large selection of notes will determine the rarity (or otherwise) of this overprint, and may establish the existence of others. Unfortunately, such overprints can be easily faked by anyone who has a working knowledge of printing technology and some quite simple equipment. Since these notes are quite valuable, and sought after by collectors, it will probably be only a very short time till the counterfeiters move in.

As regards the "Menoroth" themselves, it is ironic to reflect that those "Menoroth" most highly prized by collectors, — i. e. those most readily visible to the unaided eye — are the least satisfactory from a functional point of view — intended, as they probably were, to remain unseen until revealed by the Ultra-violet lamp.

The writer is indebted to messrs. Avraham Birenbaum and Samuel Lachman for assistance in gathering material for this article.

Lionel Holland is a partner in the numismatic firm of Eidelstein & Holland, Haifa, Israel.

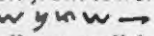
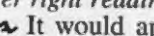
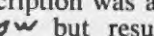




BARBARIC COINS OF THE REVOLT YEARS TWO AND THREE

by Fred Jacobs

In his monumental work *The Coins of the Jewish War*, Leo Kadman suggests that the coins referred to as "Barbaric Imitations" were minted by Jewish detachments outside Jerusalem. He refers to Josephus (*Bel IV 9, 3-8*) that during the Second year, Simon Bar Giora "gathered large forces and occupied southern Judea and Idumea." While not daring to strike silver shekels and half shekels, he did strike bronze coins dated year Two. When in the Third Year he entered Jerusalem, he ceased striking coins and so no "Barbaric Imitations" of the Third Year exist.

New Evidence

New evidence discovered by the author, would contradict this theory. In the collection of the author, there is, in addition to numerous imitations of Year Two, a coin of Year Three which Year Three which must also be termed barbaric.

The coin is described as follows: *Obv Diota with Lid: very crude Diota with six flutes instead of five on a tripod base, lid appears set on an angle to left: inscription from lower left reading clockwise*  *(Jumbled letters). Rev. well cut, well formed vine leaf on tendril inscription, well formed letters from lower right reading counter clockwise.*  It would appear that the obverse inscription was an attempt at  but resulted in a combination of retrograde inscription and a lack of knowledge of the substituting the  for a  and  for .

We should also take this opportunity to describe another interesting specimen in the collection, a coin of Year Two. This coin has a conventional obverse showing and Diota and lettering of fine style, while the reverse has a small crudely shaped leaf and lettering with wedge-shaped ends rather than pearls. Observations of these last two coins would clearly indicate that the obverses and reverses were cut by different die cutters: one of whom, quite skilled in his craft; the other, perhaps an apprentice. We must also consider the different styles of the Year Two and Three, (Kadman lists as separate types nos. 11 through 14 and 24 and 25): the different spelling of the inscriptions and a difference in the shape of some letters. This also would indicate that dies were cut by different die cutters.

It was also noted by the author, that all *Prutoth* of Years Two and Three including the "Barbaric" coins, have bevelled edges, chiseled cast trunnions, and all conform to approximately the same size and weight. This uniformity would indicate that great care was taken to prepare the planchets before striking. We must also not forget that coins of a "Barbaric" style and mint errors appear throughout Jewish Numismatics.

In consideration of the above observations, it is my opinion that all the *prutoth* dated Years Two and Three and including the "Barbaric" Pieces were struck at the same mint in Jerusalem. The cruder coins, being cut by those not yet experienced enough to cut fine dies.

*Retrograde
Obverse*



Error:

Y ^{INSTEAD}
OF Y

*Conventional
Obverse*



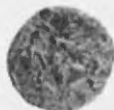
*Barbaric
Reverse*

*Barbaric
Obverse*



*Barbaric
Reverse*

*Barbaric
Obverse*



*Barbaric
Reverse*

*Barbaric
Obverse*



*Barbaric
Reverse*

*Barbaric
Obverse*



*Barbaric
Reverse*

A RECEIPT FOR PALESTINE

by Edwin Mendelssohn M. D.

In 2 March 1960 the Parke Bernet Galleries, Inc. N.Y., offered for auction one of the most fascinating historic documents of modern times: a piece of paper measuring $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ -inches mounted on cardboard, with a tear across the entire width probably from folding and unfolding. The tear was mended on the reverse of the cardboard with gummed paper.

The paper itself was official stationery bearing the embossed seal of the arms of Great Britain, with the printed heading "*Headquarters, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South), Jerusalem*", and was dated 30. 6. 20 (30 June 1920). It contained the signatures in full of the two individuals

concerned: Major General Sir Louis Bols, the Commanding Officer at Palestine and Sir Herbert Samuel, a prominent English Jew and an experienced statesman.

Sir Bols had served under General Allenby and was in direct charge of the forces which captured Jerusalem and became the Military Governor of Palestine after World War I. Sir Samuel had served as Postmaster General and Home Secretary to the British Cabinet and became the first High Commissioner of Palestine, under the mandate from the League of Nations, in 1 July 1920.

There is a fascinating history behind this amazing piece of paper since

HEADQUARTERS,
OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION (SOUTH),
JERUSALEM.

30. 6. 20.

Received from
Major General Sir Louis Bols,
one Palestine, complete.

E. & O. S.

Herbert Samuel

it is essentially an official receipt. Prior to and during the early part of World War I England had hoped that Turkey would join the Allies or at least remain neutral. However, on 5 Nov. 1914 Turkey joined Germany as an Axis partner and immediately Great Britain made plans for the capture and occupation of Palestine.

The question who was to succeed Turkey in controlling the country that bordered on the Suez Canal was vital to the empire line of trade. For if Palestine, as was likely, was to be separated from Turkey, for it to fall under the control of any of the great Continental Powers would be a danger to Britain.

In early 1917 the war began in the Middle East with the use of troops under General Murray in Egypt for offensive operations for the British. The Turkish forces in Palestine were at a minimum. The morale of the troops was very poor and munitions and supplies were low. Fortunately for the Turks they were not the only ones who moved leisurely. Two months passed before General Murphy was authorized to execute a limited offensive. By June 1917 the British had failed to advance and had suffered nine to ten thousand deaths. After this failure General Murray was recalled and in June 1917 General Allenby was sent to Egypt to replace him. Allenby opened his offensive against the Turks by a bombardment of Gaza by land and by sea. He gradually proceeded northward reaching the area of Jerusalem in December 1917.

On 8 Dec. 1917 the British army under the charge of General Allenby, with General Bols controlling the forces in the Jerusalem area began the attack for the capture of the city amidst rain and fog. The brunt of the fighting fell on the 60th (London) Division, assisted on the left by the 74th Division and on the right by the 53rd Division which had previously moved up from Beersheba along the Hebron road to within range of Jerusalem.

By evening the Turkish army withdrew and Jerusalem surrendered on

9 Dec. 1917. General Allenby made his official entry on 11 Dec. 1917. In the meantime while the war in Palestine was in progress, the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for Great Britain, Mr. Balfour, sent a statement on 2 Nov. 1917 to Lord Rothschild as President of the English Zionist Federation. This statement was to become known as the *Balfour Declaration*, and prepared the way for Sir Samuel's visit as High Commissioner to Palestine. Until then the country was to remain under a military administration.

General Allenby although then in Cairo as High Commissioner remained Commander-in-Chief of the forces occupying Palestine and was the supreme authority. Under him the Chief Administrator in Palestine was Major General Sir Louis Bols who had been his Chief of Staff during the campaign and had remained as its military governor. The Administrative residence and central offices were in vast hostel on the ridge of the Mount of Olives, about a mile outside of Jerusalem, which had been built by a German Evangelical Society, a few years before the war for the accommodation of German pilgrims and tourists and as a convalescent home for German residents in Palestine.

On 30 June 1920 Viscount Samuel arrived at the hostel on the Mount of Olives which had been Headquarters, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration South, and now was the Government House. Sir Bols had remained in Jerusalem awaiting the arrival of Sir Samuel in order to officially greet and welcome him. After the amenities and usual conversation was completed and as Bols was about to leave he asked Samuel "to sign a receipt."

Samuel had made no preparation for any documentary evidence of the formality of the turnover of the administration of Palestine, whereas Bols, a professional soldier, trained in the business side of the military had.

Samuel asked "for what?" To which Bols replied: "For Palestine".

Samuel at first thought the Military
Continued on page 32



CLUB NEWS from INS NEWSLETTERS

"Go West, young man, go West" is the cry of the Californians ready to welcome AINA members to the *Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention* at the Los Angeles Hilton, Nov. 11 - 14, an AINA-sponsored convention which has brought volunteers from all of the L. A.-area clubs to the forefront. Donna Sims writes of extensive Young Numismatist plans for Sat. (Nov. 13 - 10:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.), with Junior Exhibits to get awards, with gifts from adult collectors, prizes, educational lectures . . . AND the GLACC will also be the launching pad for installation of yet another INS club . . . the INS of L. A.! Enuf Western news? *Not yet!* In October the on-the-ball West Coasters had already announced their big Spring event, the Israel-Holy Land Expo, to be held May 22, 1977 in Hollywood; Jerry Yaholam is General Chairman. *Meanwhile, back in the East . . .* the State of New Jersey has emerged as a front-runner in the AINA-growth drive with four INS groups actively meeting, educating, bursting with pride over growth. Oldest of the groups is the INS of N. J.; then followed the INS of Central Jersey plus the INS groups of North Jersey and South Jersey. Jersey enthusiasm has really helped AINA with time and talent; they point with pride to the great job by Peter Moss who carried the load arranging the seating for the AINA luncheon at the ANA this summer . . . *while still sick with the flu!* Meanwhile, across the Geo. Washington Bridge in NY, members of the INS of NY in October saw a film on the *17th Int'l Stoke-Mandeville Games* as a prelude to a learned presentation of the medals issued in Israel in connection with that event. The Nov. meeting was planned on *Israel's Numismatics on Philatelics* (that's coins on stamps, Junior!) Only a few months earlier games had also been the theme of a presentation at the INS of Brooklyn when Irwin Stoff spoke on the *Maccabean Games*, showing medals, pins and "special striking" which depict Jewish concern for the healthy body as part of the healthy mind . . . In September, Queens-nik INSers were telling all about Hurricane Belle which had wrecked their planned final summer meeting (and flooded many a basement). Rose and Arthur Reich shared their 32nd wedding anniversary with the group by hosting a collation, reported Corres. Sec'y David Schaeffer . . . Weddings were also in the news in Tidewater as INSformer of the INS of Tidewater (Va.) reported on President Milton and Ruth Becker's hectic involvement: the wedding of their daughter to a young Israeli she met at Hebrew U. — with the ceremony in the U. S. (*Isn't that a switch?*) . . . WELCOME TO THE JUDAIC SYNGRAPHIC COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION! This group has joined the AINA and seeks members interested in . . . *Paper Money* and such. Franz Frankl is president; Bill Rosenblum is Veepee; join by writing to them at P. O. Box 215, New Brunswick, N. J. 08903. The Veepee is the same Rosenblum who was recently robbed in Denver of one footlocker of Israeli numismatic material, a \$19,000 loss including a complete set of Palestine Mandate coins; three large albums of Israel medals; a complete set of pruta coins and more. For details or to help police, call Bill at (303) 758-8951 . . . Mass. launched the Fall season with a talk on *How Medals Are Made* by Ed Shade and Sharon Balkan held her popular *Numismaquiz*, this time relating to the Jerusalem City Coin Medal . . . INSers out on Long Island

MINTAGE FIGURES OF ISRAEL COINS FOR THE YEAR 5735 (1975)

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

The annual report of the Bank of Israel for the year 1975 shows the following mintage figures:

Denomination	Coins struck in the calendar year 1975		
	at Jerusalem	at Canberra	Total
	35,385,000	5,000,010	34,385,000
1 Agora	—	—	—
5 Agorot	5,372,000	—	5,372,000
10 Agorot	34,385,000	—	34,385,000
25 Agorot	5,906,000	—	5,906,000
½ Lira	9,192,000	5,000,010	14,192,010
1 Lira	7,059,000	6,000,010	13,059,010

Total number of coins struck, bearing the Hebrew year 5735*

Denomination	at Jerusalem	at Canberra	Total
1 Agora	1,574,000	—	1,574,000
5 Agorot	10,232,000	—	10,232,000
10 Agorot	25,135,000	—	25,135,000
25 Agorot	3,968,000	—	3,968,000
½ Lira	6,066,000	5,000,010	11,066,010
1 Lira	7,225,000	6,000,010	13,225,010

* These figures include coins bearing year 5735 struck in 1974.

This is the first time that coins of Israel were struck at the Royal Mint at Canberra.

(N. Y.) were the first anywhere in America to set public plans for their *Chanuka Party* (at the Huntington Town House where my nephew was Bar Mitzvah!) for Dec. 12 (afternoon). The cost for the banquet is \$25.00 per couple . . . but if you are a paid-up member in good standing, said the club's Board, the club pays \$10 and you pay only \$15.00. They promised dancing . . . The INS of Washington, D. C. no longer has a meeting: they enjoy an *asepah* (Hebrew for *meeting*). This group may have established a "numismatic first" for INS clubs: the first presentation by an expert on *Islamic Numismatics* (Steve Sacharoff). (In the past nine years we can only remember one article in *The Shekel* on this topic). . . . The September meeting of the INS of Cleveland, according to *The Agora* featured a program on *Concentration Camp and Ghetto Stamps and Currency of WWII*, with Arnold Shay of distant Philadelphia as speaker. *He lived it all in the camps. The Agora*, consistently one of the outstanding club bulletins is "printed through the courtesy of the Accountants Data Center," notes editor Ray Nolan. Have you got a friend with a reproduction plant??? Westchester (N. Y.) where WINS is king, invited Carl Rosenblum, a Jersey stalwart, to speak on *The Banknotes of Israel* for the October meeting Before Y. Meshorer left the U. S. at ANA time, he spoke to the WINS group on *Coins of the First revolt*. . . . Jack Schwartz of Denville, N. J. is an artist of great imagination and an engraver who has created memorable medals commemorating Israel's momentous events. He was guest speaker at distant Michigan for the INS late this summer, reporting on *Modern Israel's Military Encounters*.—G.G.

A MEDAL OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

In *The Shekel* (Vol. V, No. 3; Fall 1972), Shmuel Matalon described some medals of the Jewish National Fund.

The JNF medal presented here shows on the obverse a woman carrying a load on her head, surrounded by four sheep. Below in a frame appears "*Keren Kayemet Le'Israel*". The reverse shows a shepherd sitting under a tree, playing a flute. The medal is signed on the reverse: "*H. Glicenstein*".

Henryk (Enrico) Glicenstein, a famous Jewish sculptor and graphic artist was born in 1870 in Turek in Poland and died in 1942 in New York.



There is a Glicenstein Museum at Safad in Israel.

The medal is of white metal; diameter 26.5mm, weight 7.74g.

The illustrated medal was presented by the *Jewish National Fund* to the writer in January 1921.

RECEIPT FOR PALESTINE (Continued)

Governor was joking and replied: "I can't do that. You don't mean it seriously." "Certainly I do, Bols said; "I have it here," and he produced a slip of paper already drawn up in the approved army manner.

It read '*Received from Major General Sir Louis Bols, one Palestine*', with date and a space for Sir Samuel's signature.

The latter maintained that he couldn't sign this, but Bols persisted so Samuel signed, adding the initials E. & O.E., as an escape clause, which often appeared on commercial documents meaning Errors and Omissions Excepted. Bols was satisfied and then added the word, "complete". Later

Bols was so pleased with this that he had the paper framed and hung in his office in the Commands he afterward held in England.

It boggles the mind to think what the Jewish National Fund could have done with such a receipt.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Memoirs, Viscount Samuel, Cress Press Ltd. London, England, 1945.

The Near East, William Yale, The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1958.

Great Britain Since 1688, K. B. Smellie, The University Of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1956.

Auction Catalogue Number 1956, Parke-Bernet Galleries Inc., New York, 1960.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM AINA
KAGAN/HAFFNER: *Israel's Coins and Medals*

HENDIN: *Guide to Ancient Jewish Coins*

AMERICAN
BICENTENNIAL
HONORED
IN
1976/5737 HANUKKA COIN
OF ISRAEL



Details of the Coin:

Face value: 1L 10/Silver 500/Diameter: 34 mm/Weight: 20g

Cat. No.	Description	Maximum Quantity
31801942	BU, mintmarked with the Star of David. Smooth edges	25,000
31901954	Proof, mintmarked with Hebrew ("mem"). Milled edges	20,000

This legal tender 1L 10 Hanukka coin (5th in the series) features an early American Hanukkah lamp, and will be issued in two varieties — Silver Brilliant Uncirculated and Silver Proof.

**COME! MEET US
AT THE
GREATER LOS ANGELES
COIN CONVENTION**

**SPONSORED BY THE
AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION**

**LOS ANGELES
HILTON**

NOVEMBER 11-14, 1976

**SPECIAL EVENTS
INCLUDE:**

- A vast Bourse
- Auction by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc.
- Junior Numismatic Program (Nov. 13)
- Educational Forum
- AINA DAY Luncheon
- AINA WORKSHOP
- Exhibits and Awards Banquet

LOS ANGELES HILTON — 930 WILSHIRE BLVD.